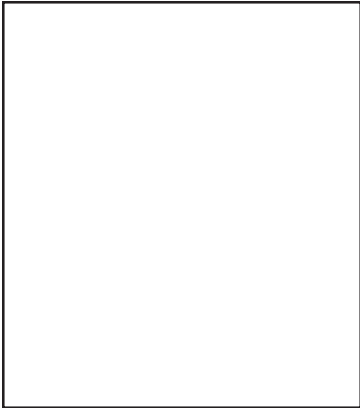


Biography

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border is positioned on the left side of the page, intended for a photograph of Robert Stephenson.

Robert Stephenson
Director for Conservation and Environmental Programs Division
Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-0513

Robert Stephenson is the Director of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD). He also leads the Agency's efforts related to the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation Act, and other Federal laws pertaining to the environment.

Mr. Stephenson manages key Agency programs and areas, including: (1) the Conservation Reserve Program, the Nation's largest private lands conservation program which reduces soil erosion and improves water and air quality and wildlife habitat; (2) the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which combines federal and state resources to target common environmental issues of importance to the state and the nation; (3) the Emergency Conservation Program, which rehabilitates farmland damaged by natural disasters; and (4) the hazardous waste activities of the Agency and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Mr. Stephenson previously served as CEPD's Deputy Director; Deputy Director of the Southwest Area; Staff Assistant in the Midwest Area; hearing officer with the Agency's Appeals Staff; and the County Executive Director of the Decatur County office in Indiana.

In 1997 and 2000, he received USDA Honor Awards for Excellence. He is a 2000 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society Program and received the Vice President's Hammer Award in 1999.

Mr. Stephenson was raised on his family's grain farm. After graduating from the Indiana University School of Business, he returned to his family's farm until joining the Department of Agriculture in 1984.